

- Hamlet of Beaver Falls
- Hamlet of Belfort
- Hamlet of Indian River
- Hamlet of Naumburg
- Village of Croghan
- Beartown
- Forest City
- French Settlement
- Gooville
- Jerden (Jordon) Falls
- Long Pond
- Prussian Settlement
- Sisterfield

Highlighting the Town of Croghan History

Volume 7, Issue 1

January-June 2015

BRUET-DUFFER POWER ICE SAW

Before refrigeration, the winter was a time for harvesting ice to be used in the warmer months of the year to keep food cold.

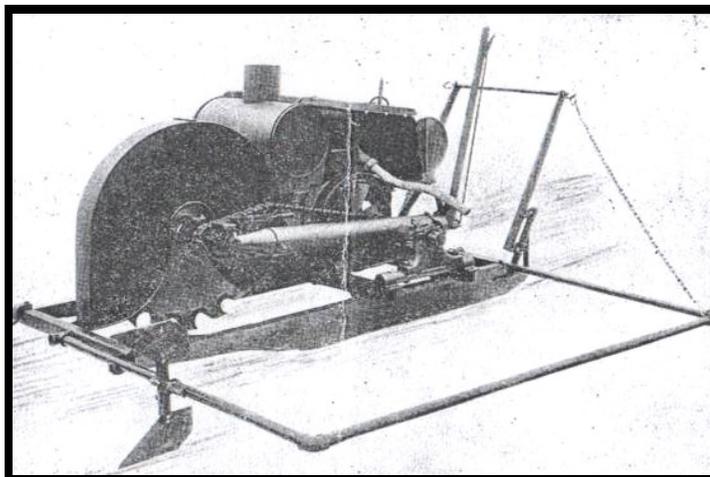
With the right conditions, the rivers were frozen over with a thickness of ice to be harvested. If the river or the body of water does not exist nearby, there were ponds dug and maintained so that ice could be harvested from these ice ponds. The ice house was found on the farm to store the harvested ice. Also, large ice houses were found in larger populated areas. The ice was harvested and stored with saw-dust placed between the ice blocks which kept the ice from melting.

One way of cutting the ice was by hand. Another way was the use of a Horse Plow which was powered by a horse. If the ice was not thick, it might not be heavy enough to hold the horse. The Bruet-Duffer Power Ice Saw weighted slightly over 700 pounds and could be used on the ice that would be unsafe for a horse.

Croghan had an inventor who invented the ice machine which would make ice cutting easier and faster. Some operators had trouble with the machine but according to the directions, it would be wise to

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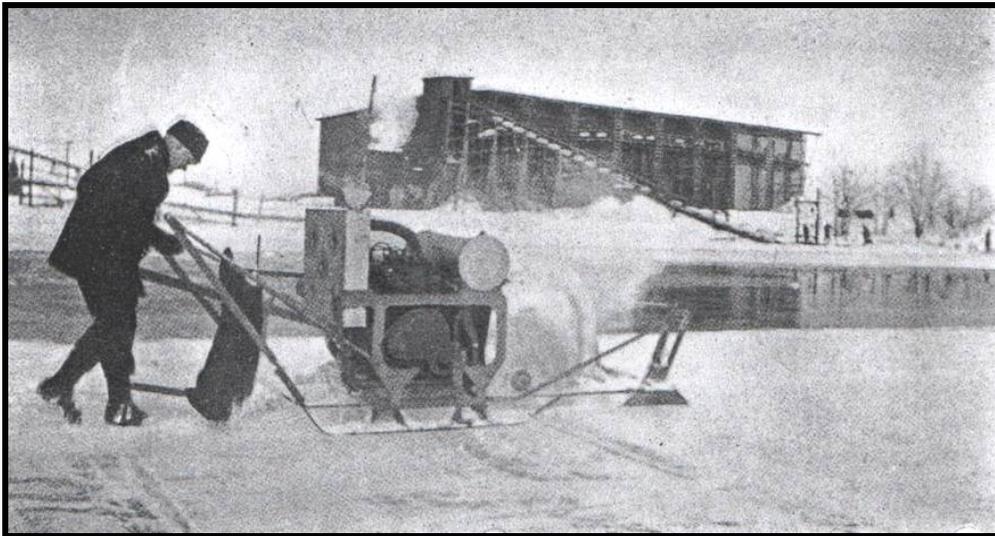
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Pictured is Bruet-Duffer Power Ice Saw showing the machine in cutting position with saw raised.

BRUET-DUFFER POWER ICE SAW (Continued)

to give the machine a thorough “running in” before taking the machine on to the field because the motor was new and stiff. If the operator never operated this machine, it was good to cut a few lines and practice before you actually cut the ice. This way the operator could become familiar with the ice saw.



According to the caption, this Bruet-Duffer Power Ice Saw was operating at 10 below zero-fining up a 35,000 ton ice harvest. Note the large ice house with elevator in the distance.

Ice Boxes were in the home with a block of ice placed in the box and the top was where food was stored. This was the beginning of our present day refrigerator. Today we take for granted that our food is kept cold all year long without using the ice block.

There are still a few ice harvests in New York but some years have to be cancelled because the ice was not thick enough or had early thaws.

With the appearance of electricity and refrigeration available for everyone, the Bruet-Duffer Power Ice Saw was no longer needed and the end of major ice harvesting.

(Source: Betsy Foley archives)

Croghan News—JOURNAL AND REPUBLICAN, January 1916

“The B.D. power ice saw invented by Maurice A. Bruet and Louis J. Duffer is being used and a large number have been to the river to see it operated. With this machine one man can easily cut 50 tons of ice an hour. A patent was secured on this machine last April covering the US and Canada. Messrs. Bruet and Duffer have received some very substantial

offers for their patent, but have not accepted any as yet. Maurice A. Bruet and Louis J. Duffer, owners and inventors of the B.D. power ice saw, leave Thursday morning for Schodack Landing. They make this trip at the request of the Mechanical Handler Co., of Hudson, where they will demonstrate for them and for the Chemical Ice Co., of New York.

The Schodack Landing is one of the largest ice fields in the State and has a housing capacity of 200,000 tons. The B.D. power ice saw is doing much better work than even their owners expected, and since they have become more familiar with the operation of it they have increased its cutting capacity from 50 tons an hour to 75 and 100 tons an hour.”

Samery Healer—Called a Miracle Worker

Croghan is noted for its Croghan baloney, Croghan Candy Kitchen plus the unique stores in the village of Croghan. It was also noted for the former waterwheel operating at Croghan Island Mill. But did you know that Samery Healer was made in Croghan and sold everywhere as the ad states.

According to an ad the secret formula from compounding this wonderful remedy, has been in use by the Samery family in Germany for over 300 years. It was kept exclusively in the family, and was handed down as an heirloom from generation to generation.

Michael Samery, the sole survivor of his house, came to America, and following the natural inclinations of mind and training, sought a home in the Adirondack mountains, settling in the Long Pond and Beaver River section. He became well known to sportsmen from all parts of the country as a guide, hunter, trapper and fisherman. He learned about the Flora and Fauna of our native wilds and found that he had all the ingredients needed to make the salve. So he gathered the material for its composition, and trapped wild animals to extract their valuable oils, which he tried out over lonely and secluded camp fires.

As Michael Samery got older, he moved to a more populated area to live. He yielded up the secret ingredients and is on sale by druggists.

The enormous powers are two, and are obvious immediately after treatment. First— The intense drawing power, which with the force of a magnet raises the dead and putrid matter to the surface. Second, the quick healing power given the cleansed and purified flesh.

The following are some of the testimonies by those cured:

***Nicholas Henry, of Croghan, N.Y. Farmer.** “I had a fever sore on my right knee in 1860, which was considered incurable. The doctors came to amputate my leg. I decided not to permit it and as a last resort I procured some of the salve made by Michael Samery. In six months I was entirely cured. I have never seen any remedy do what this salve will do, and cannot too strongly urge people to use it for wounds, swellings and bad sores.”

***Nicholas Parquet, Croghan, N.Y. Hotel-keeper.** “The Samery Healer has been in use by myself, and the boarders at my hotel for many years. A great number of men have stopped with me at different times who were badly bruised and cut, while working in the woods. I always kept the salve in the house, and in every case where it was applied, it cured. I never knew it to fail.”

***Louis Lambert, Belfort, N.Y.** “Sent three boxes to an aunt in Switzerland, to apply to a fever sore which did not yields to treatment. She was cured in four months.

***C.H. Bateman, Lowville, N.Y., Prop. Kellogg House.** “I got some salve of the old hunter while at my camp in the woods one time. It cured me of a bad cut. Since then I have used it whenever necessary. It was the means of saving me a valuable horse. It is the best thing for man and beast I know of, there is nothing exactly like it.”

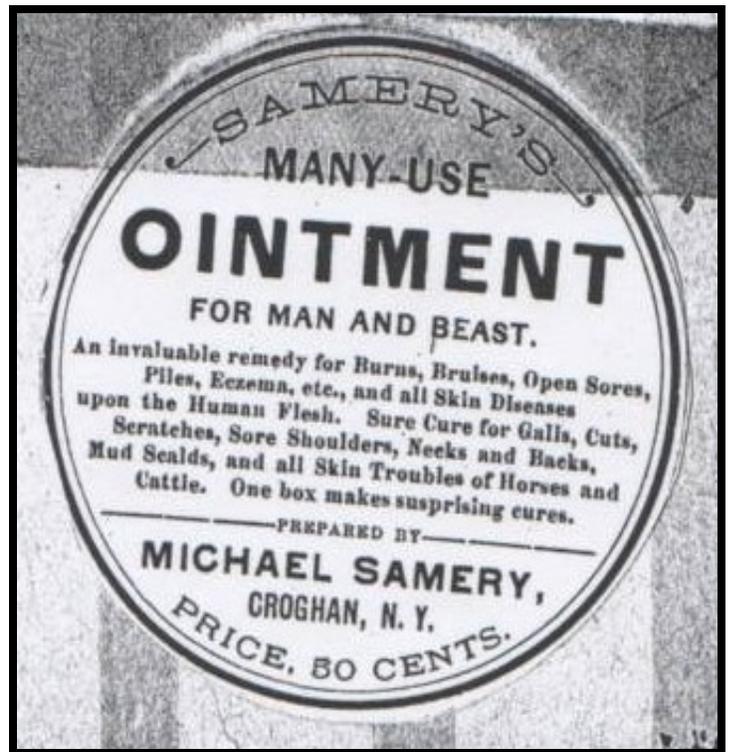
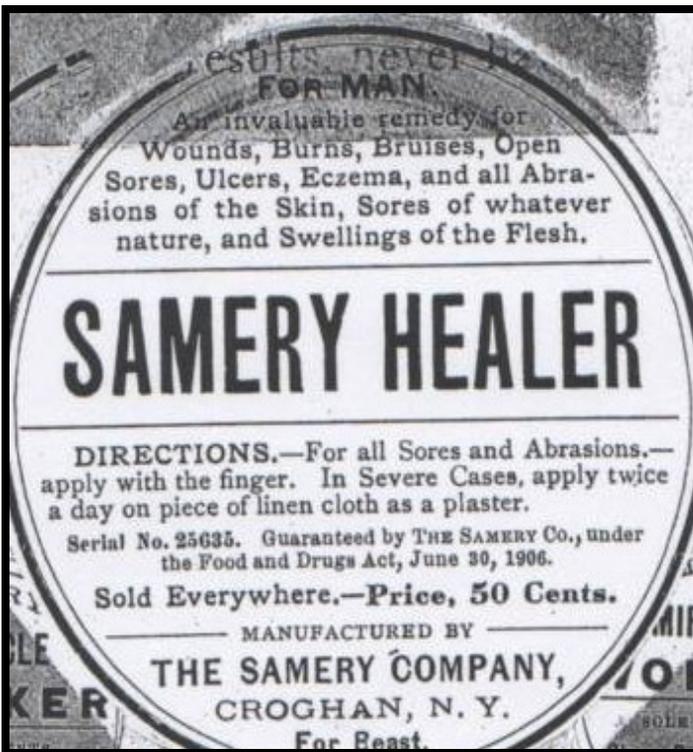
***Austin Prentice, Formerly Treasurer of Lewis County, N.Y.** “Many years ago, was cured in nine months of an ulcer of eleven years standing.”

Samery Healer—Called a Miracle Worker (Continued)

There were hundreds of similar testimonials. If it did not cure, the cost of the ointment would be returned.

Whatever happened to Samery Healer? It would now need to have the ingredients listed and the Food and Drug Administration would be involved to be sure to meet government guidelines. Like many remedies they are a thing of the past to be used no more.

(Source: Betsy Foley archives)



Harvesting Ice in the Town of Croghan

Morris Meister and son Ralph have been cutting the ice for the neighboring farmers ice houses. Last Wednesday one of their horses that had been used for plowing got into the channel from which the ice had been taken. She sank twice and swam across the

channel twice before she could be rescued. Notwithstanding the bitter cold day, the horse seems to be all right again. The water was twenty feet deep where she went down.

(Source: Black River Democrat, February 27, 1913, Riverbank News)

(This would be near the River Road—today Route 126 near Carthage, New York.)



From the Farmhouse Kitchen

During the hot summer, the thought of having something cold would whet the appetite. Ice cream would really hit the spot but you have to use your muscles to get the cool treat. The hand crank ice cream machine would come out and a custard would be made and placed in the freezer can. Ice and rock salt would be placed around the container. The crank was placed on the freezer can. The crank was turned until it gets harder and harder to turn. Sometimes more than one person would take a turn at operating the crank. Oh! But it was worth it when you tasted that cool treat.

The recipe for custard is: Combine in 5 quart kettle: 2 cups sugar, 4 eggs, 1/2 tsp. salt, 2 quarts milk, 2 tablespoons cornstarch, 2 tablespoons flour, vanilla to taste. Cook till it starts to thicken (don't let it curdle. If it should start to, take it off the stove immediately.) Cool before putting in freezer can. Add 2 tablespoons vanilla and 1 can evaporated milk.



Family Ice-Houses

This is one example of how an ice house is constructed and how the ice is to be packed. There are more than one design for an ice house but gives you an idea of what it might look like. Throughout the Town of Croghan there are several ice houses still standing but being utilized mainly for storage or it is empty.

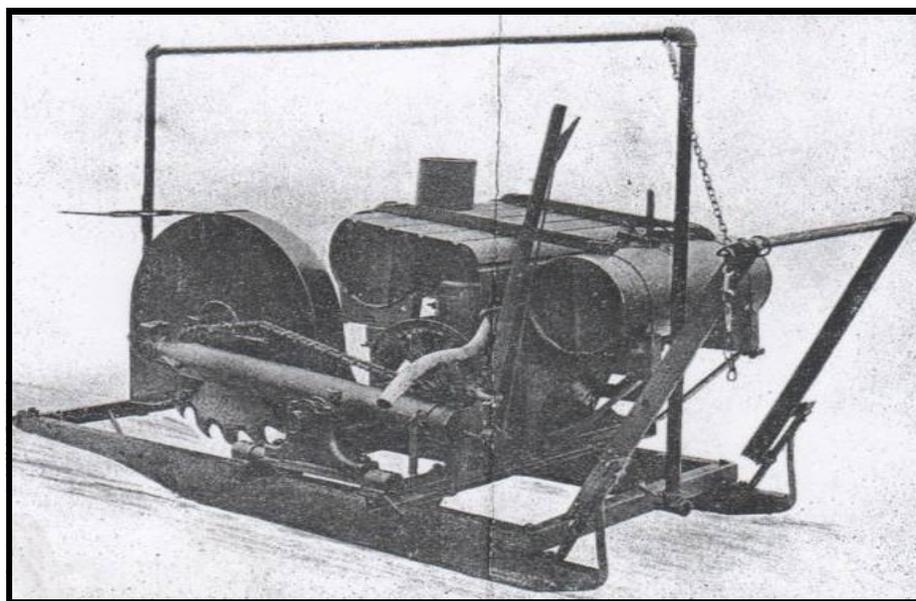
“A plan of constructing a cheap ice house, sufficient for the wants of a large family living in the country, near a pond of fresh water, has recently been suggested. A frame building twelve feet high, it is asserted, will be sufficiently capacious for all purposes. The house should be supported on posts elevated a few inches above the ground, to secure proper drainage, and should be constructed of three inch joists, with an outer board, and having inside another series of uprights, also boarded, from six to ten inches removed from the outer shell. The floor should be made of solid plank, and the space between the two walls should be filled with sand, sawdust, straw or chaff, when a roof of good pitch is added, the ice house is completed. A drain for water should be made from the floor, and the space above the uprights, between a loose flooring and the pitch of the roof, filled with straw or hay, or some similar dry porous material. On the roof should be a ventilator-the top defended from the rain or snow.

The ice should be packed in one solid mass, the sides not reaching the walls of the building, but allowing a space of from six to twelve inches all around. The top of the ice should be covered with straw, and the door should be like the sides of the building, or double doors should be made, one in the outer and the other in the inner wall. Morning glories or any climbing vine should be made to creep up the walls and over the roof, as an additional defense against the burning summer sun. A building of this kind, it is asserted, could be erected in one or two days by two men, even if they were not practical carpenters.”

(Source Jefferson County Journal—February 17, 1870)



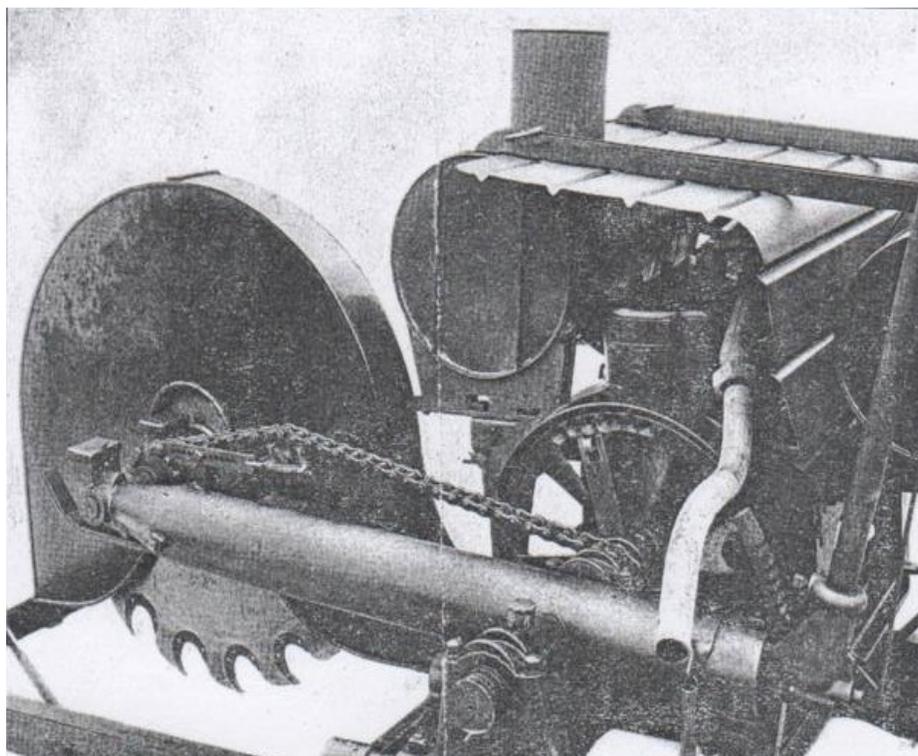
Ice can be carved into sculptures. In Beaver Falls, Eugene Sundberg created an art sculpture with the theme “All Roads Lead to Rome”. When the weather warms up, the sculpture disappears.



Another model of the Bruet-Duffer Power Ice Saw.



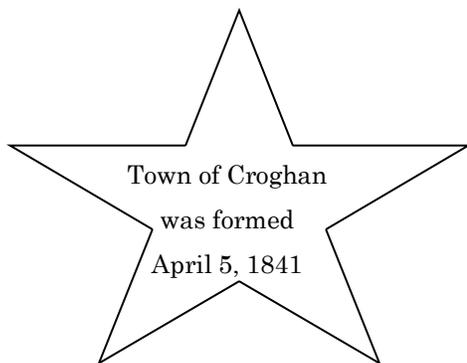
A Group of Ice Men Watching a Bruet-Duffer Ice Saw Travel 187 Feet, 8 Inches Deep in 55 Seconds.



A closer view of the Bruet-Duffer Power Ice Saw's engine and saw.

Town of Croghan Historian's Office

"All history is only one long story to this effect: men have struggled for power over their fellow men in order that they might win the joys of earth at the expense of others, and might shift the burdens of life from their own shoulders upon those of others."—William Graham Sumner (1840-1910)



From the Town of Croghan Historian's Desk

This issue of the newsletter is basically about cutting and harvesting ice in the township. If you have any questions or corrections to the articles, please feel free to let us know.

We thank Betsy Foley for giving us information about the Bruet-Duffer Power Ice Saw and Samery Healer. If it wasn't for people sharing information, the history of the Town of Croghan as well as general history would be forgotten. We are thankful for all the information that is re-

ceived by the Town of Croghan Historian's Office.

In 2015 we will again have an open house but it will not be until early spring. We will be having different displays and some of the same displays but with additional information. It is also hoped that several people will be sharing some of their archives that deal with the town's history. Dates for the open house will be in the paper.

History does not stand still and it is continually being made. It takes everyone

The Town of Croghan Historian's Office is located at the Town of Croghan Municipal Office, 9882 State Route 126, Beaver Falls, New York. If you have any questions or additions to the articles in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us at our home phone:

(315) 346-6201

This and previous newsletters can also be downloaded from Town of Croghan

Web site: www.townofcroghan.com

If there is a special topic you would like to see in a newsletter or if we have made an error, please let us know.

Thank you.

Mary and Jack Sweeney

to share as we each have a different experience and perspective on our observation of history.

May each and everyone of you have a healthy and prosperous New Year and learn about the history that is around you.

Mary and Jack Sweeney

January 11, 1920—The ice harvest on Black River has started and cakes about 16 inches in thickness are being secured. (Source: BLACK RIVER DEMOCRAT)